

Duxford Scrapbook 1897 to 1990  
Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers  
summarised by  
Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online  
at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get  
in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central  
Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled  
since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1904 02 11

Police told Linton magistrates that most public houses were satisfactorily conducted. But the landlord of the Swan, Linton had not exercised control over his guests, the publican of the Three Hills at Bartlow had been convicted of fighting with another publican from Brinkley outside the Montford Arms, Horseheath and the landlord of the Wheatsheaf beerhouse, Duxford had permitted people to remain in his house when drunk.

1904 09 30

Seventeen Passive Resisters, including two magistrates were summoned at Linton for non-payment of portions of the poor rate. They included Richard Holtum a Linton grocer, Robert Maynard JP, engineer of Whittlesford and Egbert Gregory a Congregational minister from Duxford. When magistrates asked John Maris, a Duxford corn merchant, what he had to say he replied that what he wanted to say the bench did not wish to hear – he was opposed to paying for sectarian teaching. In some denominational schools children were taught that it was a sin to enter Nonconformist places of worship.

1906 05 26

Cambridge General Benefit Society has taken over the Orwell Society which has a membership of 83. A branch has been revived at Waterbeach but the one at Duxford has been without a local manager for some time. They now admit juveniles and women almost on the same terms as men. A history of the society has been written by the Rev J.W.E. Conybeare which shows it is one of the oldest and soundest in the country.

1909 02 05

The George and Dragon beerhouse at Linton should close, justices decided. It was one of 11 licensed houses in the parish which had a population of 1,580. The accommodation consisted of a tap room, bar parlour, sitting room, small shop, cellar, kitchen, wash-house and five bedrooms. The roofing was out of repair and the flooring of the bedrooms and the staircase weak. The trade was about a barrel of beer and stout a week. The Three Horseshoes, Duxford was one of six in the village and there were more licenced houses in Balsham than were required, so the Five Bells should also close CWN 09 02 05

1912 11 01

Bird Bros' chemical manure factory at Duxford was partially destroyed by fire which started in the bone mill. A cyclist messenger was despatched for the Whittlesford Fire Brigade, attached to Mr Maynard's works, which turned out very promptly. The building was formerly a brewery made of trellised woodwork which offered a ready start for the flames. The brigades stuck to the manuals hour after hour but all the woodwork was destroyed and the iron part of the machinery was bent and twisted. However the engine driving the whole plant and the electric dynamo was saved. 12 11 01b

1914 06 05

Death of Mr. J. H. B. Maris. The inhabitants of Duxford, and friends in a much wider area heard with deep regret of the death of Mr. J. H. B. Maris, J.P., on Monday, aged 74. The greater part of his life was spent in Duxford. He was descended from an old Cambridgeshire family, many of his ancestors being associated with Shelford. In his earlier life he was a farmer and corn merchant, and his business brought him into contact with a large number of those who attended the Cambridge and Bishops Stortford markets. For the last 18 years, I however, he had practically retired from business but he continued to devote a large portion of his time to public business and religious work. He was an Alderman of the Cambs. County Council for 12 years, sat as a County Magistrate at Linton, and was Chairman of the Duxford Parish Council. He was President of the Duxford and District Liberal Association, a member of the Duxford Congregational Church for 54 years and a deacon there for 40 years. 14 06 05 CIPof

1914 06 26

It was the practice for bodies of paupers who had died at Linton workhouse to be taken by bearers straight to the grave on the hearse. But relatives of a Duxford person had wanted to take the body before it went to the graveyard for interment so they could put handles and a breastplate on the coffin to give the impression the funeral was a private one. This would be allowed in future but the body must be buried that day. Otherwise relatives would be keeping it for several days. 14 06 26 p12

1914 07 10

Red Cross Field Day: a hostile force had landed at Cromer and much fighting was taking place, forcing the First Eastern General Hospital, normally stationed here to transfer to Bedford. Wounded from a make-believe battle near Duxford ... were taken by field ambulances to a field hospital at Whittlesford Station where the platform was used for refreshment and for re-bandaging the less serious wounded. Temporary wards were erected in the station yard to be filled with the 'wounded', represented by Perse School Boy Scouts who arrived in railway goods van. 14 07 10

1914 07 24

Sunstroke. Owing to the excessive heat on Tuesday Mr. Frederick Lofts, a farm labourer, working for Mr. Robert Brand, of the Grange Farm, Duxford, was taken ill with sunstroke. He also had a lucky escape from being burnt to death, for Lofts and Mr. Sayers were burning some rubbish in the farmyard when Lofts became unconscious and fell on the fire. Mr. Sayers, who was close by, ran up and pulled him off. He then called for assistance, and Mr. Lofts was sent home in a cart. He had sunstroke 24 years ago. We are pleased to say he is progressing very favourably. – 1914 07 24 CIPof

1914 09 11

Fire. On September 2 a fire occurred in a meadow (at Duxford) belonging to Mr. A. Keeble, burning a hay stack and straw stack, both of which were entirely consumed. The fire was supposed to have been caused by children playing with matches. Fortunately there were plenty of willing helpers, including Boy Scouts, and the Whittlesford Fire Brigade also attended, so that the fire was confined to these premises. At one time it looked very dangerous to the adjoining thatched cottages. – 1914 09 11 CIPof

1914 10 30

Belgians – Waterbeach not help, Soham arrivals, Burwell, Bourn, Cottenham, Duxford, Gamlingay, Gt Eversden, Histon, Linton, Over, Sawston, Swavesey, Chatteris, Cheveley

1914 11 06

Belgians – Littleport, Burwell, Chatteris, Duxford, Comberton, Sawston, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Swavesey, Fordham, West Wickham, Wicken, Gamlingay, Willingham, Madingley, Isleham, Landbeach, Linton, Lode, Oakington,

1914 11 06

A Grantham glue manufacturing business said he contracted for house bones and butchers bones from Bird's bone works at Duxford. Several consignments were satisfactory but then the bones sent were of inferior quality. And they came with fat. He did not want it but was obliged to take it and could not send it back. So he reduced the price paid. G. Wheatley, bone merchant said the bones were sold in Cambridge market, he helped load them on the train. Birds said until war came they were not working at a profit; but then their contracts were broken, as their stuff went abroad. They could not get rid of it, meaning prices fell, so he put in his own degreasing plant.

1914 11 27

Athletes' Volunteer Force,—The Duxford Athletes' Volunteer Force which was formed on November 17, held their first drill on Tuesday in a barn which has been lent by Mr. Hughes for the purpose. The following members were drilled by Drill Instructor Pearce. — Messrs. E. Hughes, W. G. Pike, A. Webb, T. Harding, C. G. Greaves, W. Angell, A. W. Cullum, s. Woodley, F. Ward, S. Wilson, J. Plumb, T. Plumb and A. Proud. 1914 11 27

1915 09 24

Duxford baker deficient bread

1916 03 15

Prolific,—A sow belonging to Mr. Fred Negus, of Duxford, has a litter of pigs, 21 in number, all alive. Two are being brought up by hand. This is a most unusual number to keep alive, and very useful now in view of the price of pork.

1916 11 28

Volunteers,—Major Howard, O.C. 2nd Battalion. Cambs, Volunteer Regiment, visited Sawston on Sunday to inspect the local volunteers. Detachments came over from Duxford. Whittlesford, and France, Hinxton and Ickleton while Mr. F. W. Green and Sergt. Instructor Gall brought a strong contingent from Shelford. The inspection took place in Sawston Hall grounds, the number on parade being 110. Following the inspection, the Major addressed the men, and said he was very pleased with the appearance, and with the way the various movements were being carried out

1918 02 27

The Floods,—we understand that a special committee has been appointed to find out the cause of the recent flooding of Mill Lane Sawston where damage was done to homes of people and other property. A preliminary meeting has already been held, and it has been decided that a thorough inspection of the river is to be made shortly to find out the cause and to suggest, if possible, a remedy to prevent floods of a similar description. The Special Committee consists of representatives of the Linton Rural District Council, the Sawston, Whittlesford, Duxford and Ickleton Parish Councils, and Mr. H. G. Spicer of the Sawston Paper Mill together with the District Surveyor.

1918 12 11

40 cases a day.—Wordsworth Grove Hospital, Cambridge, has been fortunate in having the Newnham gymnasium lent to them for their massage and electrical department, a large, airy bright building where between 30 and 40 cases a day are treated—men in hospital in the mornings, and out-patients and discharged soldiers in the afternoons from Swavesey, Newton, Harston, Duxford and outlying villages. The treatments are massage, galvanism and Faradism, radiant heat, hot air and ionisations and exercise. The work here, as in all other Red Cross Hospitals in the county, is carried on under the supervision of Miss Laven, who has been untiring in her efforts on behalf of the wounded ever since the outbreak of war.

1919 06 18

Big gathering of mothers – About 400 members of the Mothers Union in the Camps Rural Deanery assembled at Balsham Rectory. They hailed from Whittlesford, Sawston, Pampisford, Ickleton, Duxford, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton, Bartlow and Balsham. They partook of tea, and were addressed by the Bishop of Ely and Mrs. Eager, from the Central Mothers' Union, London

1919 06 25

Property market \_ Sidney Street estate includes Price of Wales' Hotel, Dorothy Café, True Blue and Nag's Head, shops in Sussex Street and premises Hobson Street; bought by G.P. Hawkins; also houses, Duxford airfield machinery and plant – 19 06 25b

1920 01 07

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631). Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186). Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236). Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422). Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313). Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105) Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1920 01 29

Duxford doctor boycotted and cannot stay

1920 02 04

Big gathering of mothers – About 400 members of the Mothers Union in the Camps Rural Deanery assembled at Balsham Rectory. They hailed from Whittlesford, Sawston, Pampisford, Ickleton, Duxford, Castle Camps, Horseheath, Linton, Bartlow and Balsham. They partook of tea, and were addressed by the Bishop of Ely and Mrs. Eager, from the Central Mothers' Union, London Duxford medical officer given notice as dissatisfied with salary – 20 02 04a

1920 09 15

Fire at Fowlmere haystack noticed by Duxford airman – 20 09 15b

1921 03 02

Photographic Club exhibition includes WO. Squires, E.C. Ogle views of Duxford – 21 03 02e

1921 08 24

Croxton air smash; two Duxford officers killed – 21 08 24a

1924 08 22

A dispute over the sale of a grocer's and baker's business at Duxford led to a long hearing at Cambridge County Court. Albert Andrews, The Stores, Duxford said he had had the business for six years, and desired to get rid of it, on the ground of ill-health. Defendant looked over the premises and offered him £175 for the stock and goodwill. His furniture came to the house and defendant used to come into the shop, but did not say he was dissatisfied with anything. On June 4th defendant had sent a letter and refused to complete the purchase as there was no permanent right of way to get to the back of the house and the warehouse.

1925 08 29

Sir Charles Walston expressed pleasure that the Air Ministry were anxious to avoid pollution of Offa's Brook by petrol or oil from Duxford airfield. For a great many years inhabitants of Newton had drunk the water from the brook & he had never heard of any case of typhoid in the locality. Now by strange coincidence, within a fortnight of the examination of the sewage system of the aerodrome by Ministry experts, two cases of typhoid had occurred. "With all due respect to the expert opinion of these Ministries", he said, "the combination of oil and sewage effluent may be favourable for the breeding of dangerous bacilli"

1925 10 09

A crowd of 500 farmers watched with interest a demonstration of sugar beet lifters at the College Farm, Duxford. Altogether there were 10 lifters and as quite a number of growers had not made up

their minds as to which lifter they were going to purchase the opportunity of inspecting various machines materially assisted them in making their choice.

1926 01 27

The adventures of a lady's new coat, ordered through the post were traced at Linton police court. From Worcester the coat journeyed on its appointed way until reaching Whittlesford station. Charles Walker, a parcels porter, said he conveyed the parcel from the train to the parcel office. It was later placed in the booking hall to await delivery. When the carman came for the parcels this one was missing. It was later found at the 48 mileage on the Duxford siding.

1928 02 23

A Duxford builder was charged with stealing three gallons of Ethyl petrol, value 4s. 3d. and a petrol tin from a garage at Whittlesford. The man said he had gone to the garage for a quart of oil and saw this special petrol. He had never seen it before and thought he would try some. He picked up a can within full view of the pumps and emptied it into his tank. He put another into the dickey, which was left open. After leaving the garage he went straight to London.

1930 01 22

Fire caused extensive damage to a house in High Street, Duxford. The Fire Brigade was quickly summoned and an immediate search for water began. The nearest supply was the river, 300 yards away. A slight delay was caused by extra hose being needed from Cambridge and by the time it arrived flames were leaping from the roof. Difficulty was added to the situation by the complete darkness. The only lights available were a few torches and cycle lamps, but later aid was given by means of spot-lights from cars. 30 01 22

1933 05 04

Inhabitants of three thatched cottages at Duxford saw their homes burnt down in a big blaze that started across the road in a paint and oil yard belonging to Harding and Son. Cans of oil and paint exploded and the whole of the display window fittings were burnt out, leaving a gaping hole in the wall. Had the alarm not been raised by the barking of a dog the fire would have been more disastrous and enveloped the whole of the street. The absence of a strong wind, the heroic efforts of firemen and villagers, and a plentiful supply of water were alone responsible for the fire being controlled – but not until after six hours' toil 33 05 04 (pic 33 05 04)

1933 07 17

This area will be scene of aerial activity during night exercises by the RAF. Operations will begin between a raiding force of 108 bombers and 152 fighters, some based at Duxford, who will endeavour to intercept and destroy them. They should be off the ground in two minutes, reach an altitude of 1,600 feet in about ten minutes and travel 30 miles. Cambridge itself is off the map as far as actual fighting is concerned as it is supposed to be covered by mountains. 33 07 17

1933 10 18

An RAF flying officer had to make a parachute decent when his plane plunged to earth out of control near Hinxton. He jumped out and landed safely in a copse while his machine hit the earth nose-first and burst into flames, quickly becoming a flaming furnace. Flying Officer Scorgie, who is stationed at Duxford, is now eligible for membership of the Caterpillar Club for that select band of pilots who have been forced to save their lives by parachute. 33 10 18

1935 02 22

Duxford pageant – 35 02 22d & e



1935 03 01

A flight of three RAF aeroplanes were forced down near Cambridge. Two landed in rough fields near Dry Drayton and turned upside down. None of the pilots was injured. The other made a forced landing at Smithy Fen, Cottenham. The flight was of a very recent pattern single-seater fighters and had taken off from Duxford to practice for the Hendon Air Pageant. They ran into thick fog and received wireless instructions to make a forced landing. The squadron leader mistook a field of wheat for grass and turned his plane completely over on the rough surface. His flying helmet was covered with mud as a result of his skidding along upside down 35 03 01

1935 07 25

Two RAF 'Bulldog' planes taking part in night flying exercises over Cambridge had to make forced landings when they were caught in a thick mist which came up suddenly. The pilots looked for an emergency landing ground and saw the lights of Marshall's aerodrome below. One succeeded in landing just before the fog blotted out the lights but the other five had to keep on flying until one ran out of petrol and had to make a forced landing at Duxford. In doing so the machine crashed and the pilot was slightly injured. 35 07 25

1935 08 21

Most of the villagers of Duxford turned out about lunch-time to help get furniture from two houses whose upper stories were gutted by fire. With dense clouds of smoke hampering their efforts men and women strove to save property from Mayfield Villa. Not until they were ordered to leave would they give up. The flames quickly got a good hold and within half-an-hour the roof had crashed in. Two bedsteads and a sea-chest containing a uniform were destroyed but a plate on the wall advertising that the owner is an insurance agent was untouched by the flames. 35 08 21

1935 09 04

James Binney purchased the Manor of Pampisford with the mansion, grounds and estate in 1895. He served as a Magistrate, Deputy-Lieutenant and High Sheriff as well as special constable, churchwarden, chairman of the parish council and Commandant of Duxford and Ickleton Boy Scouts. When the Great War broke out he offered his services and whilst waiting for his commission assisted, with Lady Marjory and Miss Binney, at the Red Cross Hospital at Whittlesford. 35 09 04a.

1935 12 12

Dr William Wooster told the court he was a member of the Scientists' Anti-War Group and had been standing outside Duxford Aerodrome selling pamphlets entitled 'Air Display Special'. It carried a headnote to say it was not to be sold to members of H.M. Forces but they were seized by police under the Incitement to Disaffection Act. Surely people could be reminded of the sheer horrors of the Great War 35 12 12 & a

1935 12 20

The judge agreed that police had been wrong to seize copies of a pamphlet from a member of the Cambridge Scientist's Anti-War Group at Duxford aerodrome during the Royal Review. They'd been worried following an earlier incident at Mildenhall when a misguided female threw a paper at the King's car. 'The Anti-War Special' was crude, inartistic and in some respects childish. It had been sold by Dr Wooster supported by a bevy of satellites, mainly ladies, wearing badges of a reddish hue. Various ex-servicemen had expressed themselves in vituperative terms and its distribution might have lead to a breach of the peace 35 12 20

1936 12 10

King Edward VIII has abdicated. As Prince of Wales he came to Cambridge in June 1921 to receive an honorary degree and inspect Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. More than 5,000 children lined the route so they could catch a glimpse of 'Prince Charming' as he was called

in those days. His last visit in June 1932 was to inspect the Leys School. There have been visits to the County, he opened Sawston Village College in July 1930 and reviewed the Royal Air Force at Duxford in 1935 36 12 10d

1937 05 31

About 2,000 people gathered on Grange Road Rifle Range to see a display of first aid by the British Red Cross Society under air raid conditions. Three bombers from Duxford took part in the raid, exactly as though on active service. As they dived at speeds of 240 mph there were realistic bangs and clouds of smoke. People in the area rushed about screaming and collapsed wounded or from the effects of the gas. When the raid was over the rescue parties, clad in gas masks and decontamination suits commenced work. A musketry party fired on the 'planes during the raid 37 05 31

1937 05 31

Glorious sunshine and the tree-shaded beauty of Impington Park should have promised a record number of spectators at the County Agricultural Show. But attendance was well down. The reason was the Empire Air Display at Duxford Aerodrome – this is notoriously a mechanical age! But there was always something to see with cattle, sheep and goats coming under the judges' eye. His Majesty the King gained several prizes for his sheep from the Sandringham estate while both Chivers and Messrs Towgoods of Sawston had many entries in the pig classes. 37 05 31a

1937 06 14

George Hawkins, the Cambridge caterer, and his wife both sustained injuries in a motor accident. He was driving along Trumpington Street when one of the car wheels got into the run at the side of the road and the car collided with a lamp post. Another accident occurred at Pampisford Railway Station cross-roads when a van plunged down an eight-foot bank after a collision. The driver, Mr T.H. Marriott, a Duxford butcher, was trapped. When extricated it was found he had suffered a severe scalp wound and other injuries. 37 06 14a

1937 09 20

Bird's Chemical Works at Duxford was threatened when a blaze broke out in a heap of coal near one of the boilers. The fire had been withdrawn from the boilers as usual on Saturday but the live coals were placed too close to the heap which smouldered through the night before igniting, setting fire to one side of the building. There was a large amount of grease and tallow on the premises which could have been ignited. Workers wheeled out the six or seven tons of coal in wheelbarrows - coal had never been shifted so quickly – and dumped it beside the river. 37 09 20a

1937 10 08

Duxford aerodrome extension approved – 37 10 08c

1937 12 03

Demolition of houses at Horseheath and Duxford – 37 12 03a

1938 04 21

Cambridge is to be the subject of an 'air raid' on July 14<sup>th</sup>. It is actually an ARP demonstration which will take place on Midsummer Common which is to be laid-out in the form of a street and made as realistic as possible. The scenario is that several squadrons of enemy aircraft fly over en route to Birmingham but are turned back and unload their bombs over Cambridge after they are attacked by aeroplanes from Duxford. The whole of the enemy machines are destroyed. Meanwhile the Mayor of St Ives, Mr D. Bryant, has built an air-raid shelter in his garden with the help of his sons. The first in the town, he is giving his townspeople a lead. 38 04 21 38 04 22a



1939 05 26

Empire Air Day.—Local interest in Empire Air Day was divided between Duxford, Mildenhall, Debden and Wyton. Thousands of people were present. The attendance at Duxford was a record for the occasion, being only about 100 short of the 12,000 mark. The day passed off without serious mishap. Cambridgeshire saw its Spitfires in action over Duxford aerodrome.

1939 09 29

The Record of Records. Writing this week from 18, Hillside, Sawston, Mr. T. F. Teversham writes.—"During the past few weeks you have published many attendance records. I have kept one up my sleeve, which, I believe, eclipses all of them. It is held by Mr. Frank Barker, of New Road, Sawston. He performed what seems to be an almost incredible feat of attending the Sawston Council School for ten years, and was never absent and never late. The particular period was 1897-1901. He started school at the age of 3 plus, and was allowed to leave when 13½, six months before his full time, as a reward for an extraordinary achievement. His wife also attended for 7 years at Duxford School without an absence being recorded against her."

1939 11 24

One of Charlie Everett's proudest possessions was a chair in which the late King Edward once sat. Originally it was in a cottage on the Madingley Hall estate and one day the Prince of Wales, when an undergraduate, sought shelter from a thunderstorm. After a while the woman who lived there, who did not know who he was, offered him an old umbrella, remarking "You can have this one; I wouldn't lend my best one, not to the King of England". A day or two later it was returned with a sovereign and a note of thanks signed 'The Future King of England'. Mr Everett married the woman and the chair always had a place of honour. Born at Duxford, he travelled the country with Joseph Arch, speaking on behalf of the Labourers' Union. He started work for the Corporation as pindar thirty years ago. Regularly during the months when the commons were open for grazing he would get up at sunrise to start his work.

39 11 24

1940 01 05

Died Soon After Diamond Wedding. Two months after he had celebrated his diamond wedding, Mr. William Smith, of The Mount, Mill-lane, Ashdon-road, Saffron Walden, died on Friday morning at the age of 86. He had been ill for about a year and had recently been much worse. Born at Hinxton, Mr. Smith's first job was as apprentice to a Sawston butcher, and he then branched out on his own with a shop at Duxford. He went to London, and although he came to Elmdon after his marriage, he returned to town after two years in the country. He spent the greater part of his life as representative of R. White and Sons, a mineral water firm. Mr. Smith moved to Linton, travelling from London at week-ends, and here he and his wife spent 14 years before coming to Saffron Walden in 1918. Retiring 10 years ago, Mr. Smith lived in Ashdon-road, and it was there that he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding. They moved to The Mount with their eldest daughter, Mrs. Backler, about three years ago. Their diamond wedding took place last October. Mr. Smith leaves a widow, one son and two daughters. He was one of the oldest members of the Hearts of Oak Society, which he joined in 1873, and was a member of the Saffron Walden. Conservative Club for many years.

1940 08 02

M.C. for Cambs. man. Among the recent awards to soldiers in the Middle East is that of the Military Cross to Second Lt. W. V. Hamilton Cape. Aged 22, 2nd Lt. Cape is the surviving son of Capt. and Mrs. N. W. Cape, of Caxton Manor, Caxton. The incident for which the award is made occurred when Second Lt. Cape attacked a large Italian column which was protected by 12 tanks. During the battle, one of Lt. Cape's two armoured cars had a puncture. Despite heavy enemy fire, he changed the wheel, at the same time directing the second car to harass the Italians. This kept the enemy at bay until British reinforcements arrived, when the

entire Italian column was destroyed or captured. It may be remembered that Capt. and Mrs. Cape's elder son, Flying Officer Roy N. T. Cape, was killed at Duxford in August. 1926

1941 07 28

Rev J. C. Wood's Departure,— At a farewell meeting on July 16, a presentation was made to the Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Wood in the Congregational Schoolroom, Duxford. In happily chosen and affectionate words, the .Rev. G. Porter Chapple presented to Mr. Wood a wallet of Treasury notes from the Duxford Congregational Church and friends in the village on his resignation after 19 years in the pastorate. Presentations were also made to Mrs. Wood.

1942 01 23

Escape at Second Attempt. - In September, 1940, we reported that Gunner E. Dimes, an old Duxford man, was a prisoner, and subsequently his wife received notification that from the authorities that they were unable to trace him and so he was reported "missing." However, in actual fact, Gunner Dimes was in a German prison camp, where he attempted to escape, but was captured and punished. With typical British tenacity he "tried again" and this time was successful. As a result, Gunner Dimes is now spending a well earned leave at his home at 131 Station Road, Histon. Before the war he was a mail van driver, at Royston Post Office, but, being a reservist, was called to the Colours at the outbreak of hostilities. He would not tell of the conditions in a prison camp, nor of his escape, but when questioned as to what the food was like, said "Not so good"

1942 02 27

Golden Wedding—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Symonds, of the Flower Pot, Duxford, celebrated their golden wedding on Friday. They were married at Smithfield Martyrs Memorial Church. Clerkenwell, London, on February 20, 1892. Mr. Symonds is a native of Essex, and was born at Brights Farm, Ashdon. Mrs. Symonds is a native of Birmingham. Of their four children, one son and two daughters are living; one son died through a motor cycling accident. They have one grandchild. They have received several congratulatory telegrams upon their celebration.

1942 04 24

Rector's Son Decorated. — At the investiture at Buckingham Palace on April 15, the son of the Rector of Duxford, Flt.-Lt. R. D. Braham, D.F.C., received a bar to his D.F.C.

1942 08 14

Squadron Leader Downs a Dornier.—Squadron Leader John R. D. Braham, D.F.C. and Bar, brought down another German bomber recently, when, after a burst of fire, a Dornier went down. Dr. Ernest G. Braham, of Duxford, the father of the squadron leader, was a pilot himself during the last war, when 22years of age. Squadron Leader Braham is a night "ace," and has brought down 11 enemy night bombers. His father is justly proud of his son's outstanding merit.

1942 12 25

Captain Mack, D.S.O. The congratulations of the whole village (Duxford) go out to Capt. Mack, of the Merchant Navy, on his appointment, as a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry, skill and resolution during recent convoy work. His parents, who live at the Villas, Duxford, must feel indeed proud to know his gallantry has been recognised.

1943 06 25

Second Bar to D.F.C. Wing Commander John L. D. Braham, D.F.C. and bar, has been awarded a second bar to his D.F.C, for great daring and courage in sinking a U-boat and firing another German vessel from end-to-end in the Bay of Biscay. With great determination he attacked the enemy vessels from 200 feet. Wing Commander Braham is the son of Dr.

Braham, until recently Rector of Duxford, and now Rector of Newtown, Fareham, Hampshire.

1945 08 03

American aerodromes at Duxford & Fowlmere open to public for first time – 45 08 03a, 45 07 31

1945 10 05

Narrow escape. — The Earl of Rosebury narrowly escaped serious injuries when his car, which he was driving, overturned near Duxford Aerodrome on Sunday afternoon. A back wheel came off while the car was travelling at about 50 miles per hour. The car somersaulted twice, and Lord Rosebury was pitched through the canvas run roof into some barbed wire. He was bruised and cut, but otherwise unhurt when the Duke of Norfolk, who was in a following car, picked him up and brought him on to Newmarket. Lord Rosebery was travelling from Mentmore to Newmarket. His car was completely wrecked.

1945 10 26.

Ploughing Match. — A ploughing match of the Sawston District Young Farmers' Club and the Hinxton, Ickleton and Duxford Ploughing Society was held on land belonging to Messrs. A. Home and L. Howe on Saturday, when there were 22 entries for the horse and tractor classes. It was judged by Messrs. A. Tinney, of Horseheath; F. H. Garner, manager of Higham Estates; C. L. Marr and J. Smith. The competitors found ploughing difficult, as the ground was hard. Refreshments on the field were provided by the president, Mr. I. Howe. The event was followed by a ploughmen's supper in the Sawston Village College, the principal guests at which were Mrs. Bowen, who has always taken an interest in agricultural activities in the district, and who presented the prizes; Mr Howe, Mr S. A. Taylor, Mr. J. A. McMillan, Mr. Tinney and Mr Marr, Mr. W. L. Wood was toastmaster, and a number of toasts were proposed and replied to. The evening concluded with an entertainment by the Foxton Yokels Concert Party. The following were winners: Single-furrow horse plough—1 S. Pledger, 2 A. Whitehead and H. Nunn (equal). Two-furrow tractor plough—1 S. A. Badcock, D. Neale. Three or more furrow tractor—1 E. C. Barton, 2 F. Whitby, 3 J. Wright.; Three or more furrow tractor plough for young farmers—1 J. Churchman, 2 H. D. J. Stigwood, B. Beavis, complimentary, L. Allen. Special prizes: Best horse team—A. Whitehead; best tractor turn-out—D. Stigwood; best work done by a Ransome tractor plough (given by makers)—I. R. Fordham, 2 H. R. Driver.

1947 08 29

A petition by the Rector of St Peter's church, Duxford, for the demolition of the disused St John's church, Duxford, on the ground that it was in a very advanced state of decay and there was a possibility of serious accidents happening, was heard at a Consistory Court at Ely Cathedral. The Rector said that St John's church had been broken into, defiled and misused in a great many and scandalous ways and in a state of considerable dilapidation. The walls were opening up and breaking away from the roof, and tiles were coming off. The rain had already destroyed a great deal of the medieval contents and irreparable damage had been done to "really good stuff". Efforts had been made to persuade the R.A.F. to take over the church as a chapel in memory of the American pilots who fell in the Battle of Britain, but that scheme ended in failure.

1948 09 18

The almost inexhaustible number of uses to which synthetic resin can be put in Britain's post-war industries was demonstrated at an exhibition by Aero Research Ltd, Duxford. Features include the many uses to which one of the firm's adhesives "Redux" can be put in the construction of aircraft. In contrast to this was the house-hold carpet sweeper and a bedroom suite where aluminium sheets are bonded to veneer with corrugated cardboard interior packing. Another section is devoted to "Araldite", a new resin used in metal-to-glass and

metal-to-metal bonding with exhibits loaned by the Atomic Research establishment at Hanwell

1949 08 04

South Cambs RDC have accepted an offer from the Ministry of Health for 100 aluminium bungalows for workers in vital industries. They were informed that Duxford and Sawston appeared to qualify for the bungalows which cost about £1,285 each for a group of between 20 and 50 houses.

1950 09 19

The old barn at Duxford Grange farm was the scene of a happy gathering when Mr Harry Walston, prospective Labour candidate for Cambridgeshire, and of Thriplow Farms Ltd, invited the farm workers to a harvest supper. This was the fourth occasion it has been held, and a 220 lb pig had been killed to help to feed the company of about 100.

1951 01 19

Local firms are amongst those to whom the De Havilland enterprise has paid public tribute for their contribution in supplying parts for the two Comet jet airlines whose achievements have been acclaimed throughout the world as an outstanding example of British enterprise. They are Aero research of Duxford, whose 'Redux' metal-to-metal bonding is used throughout the airframe, Magnetic Devises, Ditton Works, Cambridge who supply relays and Pye Ltd who developed micro-switches for the plane.

1952 01 07

Sweepings of lead carbonate oxide taken from the back of a car and compared by Scotland Yard experts with similar material found outside St Peter's church, Duxford, featured when two men were sent to prison for two years for stealing 360 lbs of lead valued at £22.10s. from the church. The rector said he had become aware of a different light from the porch. He rushed up a ladder standing nearby and found that half the lead over the porch was missing. The prosecution agreed not to proceed with a further charge of stealing lead from Ickleford

1952 12 18

Following an inspection by South Cambs R.D.C. of some "no fines" concrete houses they recommend the erection of 100 such houses in Sawston, and 50 in Duxford, Linton and Bassingbourn. The houses were comfortable to live in and of a smaller area than the type of house they had been building. They will not have to find any labour for erection as the firm will supply the men who will probably be billeted in the Trumpington National Service Hostel

1953 04 03

The Duxford firm of Aero Research has played an important part in the reconstruction of the Royal State Coach. The late King George VI found the iron tyres both noisy and uncomfortable and inquired if it would be possible to fit rubber tyres without changing the traditional appearance of the coach. After 200 years of use the wheels had changed and were no longer truly circular. The firm needed to build up the wheels to their original shape by applying a thickness of synthetic resin to the existing tyres.

1953 07 30

South Cambs RDC agreed to borrow £310,360 needed for a comprehensive water scheme designed to supply 17 parishes. At present the east area receives its piped water from Linton and the western area from the village of Croydon. The problem was to find a means of supplying the villages in the centre where eleven of the parishes including Barrington, Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton, Shepreth and Whittlesford have no piped water at all. A bore was sunk at Dottrell Hall, near Fowlmere, and they were rewarded with a source which will yield a million gallons a day.

1953 12 11

Linton cricket club proudly celebrated their centenary surrounded by relics of days gone by. Mr S.A. Taylor recalled when the football club shared the same ground & Mr Chalk reminisced on the games of his youth, including a visit to Duxford in 1896 when there were about 400 turkeys running about the cricket ground. T.F. Teversham said: "If your grandfathers turned up today in this lovely old town all they would miss would be the tinkle of the sheep's bells. I am pleased to see you are still free from the clutching hands of the interfering busybodies of the Town and Country Planning"

1955 04 21

After completing his visit to Aero Research Ltd of Duxford the Duke of Edinburgh had a big surprise for his hosts. As he walked towards the 'Whirlwind' helicopter which was to take him back to Windsor he invited them to take a joy ride in the aircraft. The Duke, smiling broadly, stood by as Dr de Bruyne, the managing director and Mr Needham the chairman climbed aboard with their wives and then watched as it took off in a huge cloud of dust and circled the area. They declared the 'flip' a wonderful treat and the Duke appeared thoroughly pleased. 55 04 21a

1956 01 14

All previous records were beaten at the National Boat Show, Olympia. Granta Floating Boats of Cottenham have taken an order from a Finnish company for 100 of their new outboard motors and also sold 50 of their canoes – the works should be busy for a long time to come. Appleyard Lincoln and Co boatbuilders of Ely booked their entire hire fleet for most of the summer and a revolutionary new boat developed by Aero Research of Duxford is to be mass produced in America. 56 01 14a & b

1957 07 01

The rector of St Peter's Church, Duxford, sat on the Coronation seat on the green with a top hat for donations. RAF men in full flying kit arrived in the station fire engine, bowed low and made their contributions. They then received a certificate granting them permission "to fly Discreetly and Warily over ye precincts of ye Holy Shrine of St Peter's without incurring ye customary Curse of Anathema of ye church" 57 07 01b

1957 07 07

The water situation in Duxford is critical. Last year 40 of the 63 satisfactory wells dried up. Miss Harriet Hewitt, 74, says her well had dried up and she has to go to a pump 250 yards away to fetch water. Mrs Pamela James in St John's Street who has two small children has to get her water from a pump 200 yards from her home four times a day. The District Council says a piped supply from Dotterell Hall is expected in autumn. 57 07 07 & a

1957 07 13

Duxford water cartoon – 57 07 13b

1957 10 11

A builder appealed to develop a site at St John Street, Duxford. It has been the site of the village fair for many years and was also used as a caravan site for casual labour. Both caravan dwellers and showmen were frequently a nuisance. A former Chairman of the Parish Council said it was absolutely ideal as a building site and he was disappointed that he'd not bought it himself. Many people working in the village had to find accommodation elsewhere and others wanted to move from council into private homes. 57 10 11a

1958 10 24

Bird's Chemicals works at Duxford was founded in 1937 to produce artificial feeds for agriculture. They want double the labour force to 35 people and build six bungalows for their workers, many of whom live on a caravan site. But Duxford is an important airfield for



fighters and this would interfere with the safety of aircraft. The site was also outside the limits of the village and would constitute ribbon development, an Inspector was told. 58 10 24

1959 04 30

Duxford St John's church has not been used since the two livings were united in 1874 and its fabric began to deteriorate. The east and west tower arches are Romanesque, the doorway looks Saxon in design and the porch has late medieval timber work. Now the new vicar, Rev V. Fletcher, has written to John Betjeman and the Friends of Friendless Churches. It could be used as a retreat, prayer centre or a theological college. An appeal will be launched. 59 04 30c

1959 05 20

The facilities for private flying and gliding in Cambridge are as good as those in many larger cities. At Cambridge Airport there exists a flying school, a flying group and a gliding club, and a few miles distant at Duxford another gliding club run by the R.A.F. Gliding and Soaring Association which caters for a limited number of civilians. In April 1935 the Cambridge University Gliding Club made its first flight field at Caxton Gibbet. A St Neots butcher, Tom Ayres, placed a field at their disposal and loaned them a barn for use as a hangar. 59 05 20a & b & c & e

1959 05 22

CIBA of Duxford has been celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation with the official opening of three new buildings: a factory for making 'Araldite' epoxy resin, laboratories for long-term research and a new sales block. Over 1,000 guests toured the Company's factory and many took advantage of helicopter flights to view the site from the air. Speeches at the anniversary dinner were relayed to staff by closed circuit television 59 05 22a

1959 07 30

Money has quickly come in for the restoration of St John's church, Duxford. Although St Peter's church is in first-class condition the 'secondary' church has been disused for many years and has consequently fallen into poor state. But the Rector, Mr Fletcher, is determined to see it restored and is looking forward to the day when he can conduct services there –the first time anyone will have done so in nearly 100 years. 59 07 30

1960 01 07

South Cambs RDC are going into the 'houses for sale' business. They initially intended to use small sites away from Council house developments but now hope to build on land fronting the highway in existing estates at Babraham Road, Sawston and Symonds Lane, Linton as well as new sites at Duxford and Melbourn. They plan semi-detached houses with a garage to sell for £2,450. Mortgage repayments would be about three pounds a week. Applicants on the council's waiting list will be informed. 60 01 07a

1960 07 21

The first stage of the restoration work on St John's church, Duxford is almost complete. While the remainder of the 12<sup>th</sup>-century edifice still stands derelict, broken and an unhappy example of vandalism and hooliganism, the roof of the North Aisle has been stripped, treated and replaced to give some indication of how the church will again be usable in seven or eight years. The work is being done by local people and the next stage involves re-guttering, re-glazing the windows, re-pointing and redecorating. Already mural paintings and rare carvings have been revealed. 60 07 21

1960 08 13

Duxford villagers complained of noise from the aerodrome. Shirley Rooke, whose firm makes tallow, grease and fertilisers, often has to make three telephone calls for one message as she can't hear a word the other person is saying. The chemical works, known locally as the 'glue



factory' has a chimney 50 feet in height and aircraft have to tip their wings to avoid hitting it. Jettisoned fuel tanks cause damage while vibrations draw the rivets from roofing tiles and crack plaster in bungalows. The RAF says they try to avoid excessive noise on Sundays during church services. 60 08 13

1960 09 02

Some 30 airmen at Duxford RAF Station took their lunch in the N.A.A.F.I. canteen rather than in the official Service mess. They claimed the cookhouse food was 'lousy' and not worth eating as the chips had been overcooked and were hard. But they had no complaints about the breakfast or high tea and said the supper provided for those on flying duty was 'marvellous'. The Wing Commander admitted the hot tables were out of date; new ones had been on order for two-and-a-half years and ought to be installed by Christmas 60 09 02a

1960 09 30

CIBA of Duxford developed bodywork for the Bluebird car – 60 09 30b

1960 10 05

A ten ton tank filled to capacity and mounted on a trailer drawn by an articulated vehicle turned over as it was negotiating the roundabout at the Newnham end of Fen Causeway. As it fell it hit a parked car a glancing blow. The industrial glue trickled out of the tank's head in a steady stream and traffic had to be controlled while a breakdown truck towed away the car. The resin, used for making chip board, was on its way from the CIBA factory at Duxford. As there was no crane in Cambridge capable of raising the tank, Welch's Transport of Stapleford, sent two six-ton vehicles, and after the resin had been pumped out into other tankers, managed to complete the job shortly after midnight. The final traces of the accident were cleared away when council workers washed down the road 60 10 05

1960 12 16

Duxford Church of England Primary school opened – 60 12 16c

1961 03 06

Duxford airfield, the home of RAF fighter planes since the First World War, is to close as a Fighter Command base and will probably be administered from Waterbeach. It has a tremendous history but was built for bi-plane use and since it cannot be expanded any further it must be sacrificed in an age of supersonic aircraft. The 130 married quarters will continue to be used and the buildings and hangars become storage and support units. It will remain as a front line fighter base through 1961 until the closure is completed 61 03 06a

1961 03 08

RAF Duxford dying of old age – 61 03 08

1961 05 05

Robert Pumphrey of Temple Farm, Duxford has the only two original traction engines in the country in working order. They were used for harvesting until 1951 but were too expensive to run and were abandoned. Instead of breaking them up he started entering them in rallies and has won a variety of prizes. He drives the engines to shows, averaging 35 miles a day on a good day. They consume large quantities of fuel so he carries at least 4 cwt with him on his journeys. 61 05 05

1961 05 19

Blacksmith Harry Spicer of Duxford now only goes to the Thriplow forge about once a month. Eight years ago there was enough work to occupy him three days a week. He does a little shoeing but most of the time remakes and repairs agricultural machinery. He rents the forge from a Brewery company. It must be fairly old as it is built of clunch but the inside is kept in good running order 61 05 19a

1961 05 29

A leading RAF glider expert, Ernest Walter Clarke of Duxford, was killed when his sail plane broke up in the air over Fen Ditton – 61 05 29

1961 09 14

St John's Church in Duxford, which has fallen into disuse and disrepair since the living was amalgamated with that of St Peter in 1874, is gradually being repaired and restored. The Rector initiated a restoration scheme three years ago when he entered the living and the most urgent part of the work has now been completed. At the start the church required re-guttering, re-glazing, re-pointing and re-decorating throughout though these were of secondary importance to the task of renewing the roof of the north aisle. Much remains to be done including repairing windows, many of which have been broken by vandals. And while washing the walls traces of medieval murals have been discovered. 61 09 14a

1961 11 20

Main train lines were diverted while railway engineers worked throughout the night to construct a bridge on the line between Great Chesterford and Shelford. They started at 11.30 pm under electric lighting take up the old bridge and fit one of a standard design four feet above the water level of the narrow river at Duxford. Men worked in shifts throughout the day while trains were diverted via Audley End, Bartlow and Shelford. 61 11 20

1962 02 23

The original Duxford Mill was mentioned in Domesday Book as "worth twelve shillings; it is now broken but could be repaired". Later the present mill was built on the site and worked until 1946 when it was again in a bad state of repair. The mill and miller's house are now made into one spacious home. In the room which is now a kitchen Charles Kingsley wrote 'The Water Babies' during his frequent visits. 62 02 23a

1962 06 01

From being almost a novelty, the steam engine has come to be regarded with sentimental veneration, receiving the same loving care and attention as vintage motor cars. The Pumfrey family of Duxford have owned a Ruston and Proctor seven n.h.p. engine since it was bought new in 1914 while Mr H. Nicholls of Cheveley has preserved a 1902 single crank compound Burrell which was used for estate work at Fordham Abbey. The Taylor brothers of Wimbish, who have a reputation for being assiduous collectors, displayed the formidable Fowler 18 n.h.p. double crank compound ploughing machine built in 1918 and still occasionally used for ploughing and mole draining 62 06 01a

1962 08 01

A Cambridgeshire bungalow stuck together with glue has been chosen by 'Ideal Home' magazine as one of its 'houses of the year'. Situated in a large secluded garden at Stapleford it uses epoxy resins made by CIBA at Duxford. The framework is built of plywood beams strengthened with struts glued with resin and other of the firm's products, such as shipboard panels have also been used. It is hoped that the principal can be adopted on a larger scale and adapted to all kinds of buildings. 62 08 01

1964 03 13

Duxford 'Life in a village' photo feature – 64 03 13e

1964 05 29

Heavy explosions and columns of smoke around Duxford airfield marked the destruction of groups of blast baffle walls which were built when jet aircraft came into general use after the war. Dickerson's hope to get most of the 56 walls, each weighing 240 tons, down in one day. Sixteen baffles near the main road are being left until last so police can assess whether any

special traffic precautions are needed. The concrete rubble will be broken into hardcore to be used for building work at Arbury Road. 64 05 29

1964 09 25

Cambridgeshire's 19 wartime airfields are falling into disuse or being reclaimed as farm land. Weed-choked runways, derelict barracks and tumbledown conning towers are all that is left. At Duxford the concrete baffles have been demolished and its runways are disappearing with the rubble being used for housing and road building. Waterbeach had a succession of Vikings and Vampires aircraft but now it is mainly trainers that take off. At Bottisham many of the buildings are used for storing grain. But Mepal, which recently had a Thor missile base, is now in the hands of the Americans – 64 09 25c

1966 05 10

Duxford Flower Pot pub to be sold – 66 05 10

1972 07 14

Cambridgeshire planners '£3 million idea of turning the historic Battle of Britain airfield at Duxford into a gigantic sports complex has been turned down by the Environment Minister, Mr Peter Walker. And Mr Walker has, temporarily at least, locked the doors on the Home Office's present plans for turning parts of the airfield into a Borstal. The decision could mean that the airfield will be derelict for years to come. Mr Walker told the planners that he is not satisfied that the impact of noise, traffic and crowds on the Duxford area, which

1974 01 25

South Cambridgeshire Rural Council are considering a plan to create a new village near Duxford airfield using the 150 houses on the 30-acre airmen's married quarters site as a nucleus. It would be a completely new village with its own community hall and centre. Cambridgeshire planners are hoping to develop a large open air sports complex on the 600-acre airfield which closed down some years ago

1974 01 30

The Eastern Sports Council fear that unless former airfields like Duxford are used for sporting pursuits, some activities which require large areas of space – like parachuting and land yachting – may be forced out of existence within ten years. The 600-acre airfield has been disused for a number of years and its future is still in doubt. A £3 million scheme for a major sports complex was rejected last year together with a counter-plan to build a prison for young offenders on the site. South Cambridgeshire RDC have proposed turning the married quarters into a nucleus of a new village

1975 02 03

Cambridgeshire chief constable, F. Drayton Porter, suggested that the defunct RAF station at Oakington could be used to house the county's problem children. This would prevent them being held in police stations and prisons when there was nowhere else for them to go. "This kind of accommodation could well be ideal. After all the housing of the Ugandan Asians in RAF stations was done in a matter of days", he said. A plan to build a prison for young offenders on part of the disused Duxford airfield was dropped in 1973.

1976 02 27

300 children were evacuated from Duxford Primary School after one of the pupils took what appeared to be an unexploded bomb to school. The nine-year-old found it while playing near the former Battle-of-Britain airfield in the village. When the Headmaster, Mr Peter Chivers, saw it he got it out of the school and called the police. All the children were sent home

1978 03 23

The future of the picturesque St John's Church, Duxford hangs in the balance. It dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century but has not been used as a parish church for more than 150 years and was declared redundant in 1976 by the Church Commissioners. Several attempts have been made to find a buyer and one scheme to turn it into a house fell through. When a recent public inquiry turned down a scheme for a village community centre the church was mentioned as a possible site where some village activities could take place.

1979 04 30

The 1,800 villagers of Duxford have lost their tiny branch surgery, despite a petition calling for its retention. Now they have to go to Sawston. Doctors say that the old days when the doctor was a comforter and father figure handing out bottles of red medicine have passed and the higher standards of modern medicine depend on tests and examinations which cannot be carried out at a branch surgery. Other surgeries have closed recently in Barton and Barrington while a question mark hangs over those at Great Chesterford and Elmdon. At Soham Health Centre there are minibuses to bring patients in from neighbouring villages and this might be arranged for Duxford.

1979 06 09

A new town might be built on the Cambridgeshire-Essex- Hertfordshire borders within the next 15 years if the proposed third London airport is developed at Langley or Stansted. The only alternative would be expansion at Royston. The airport would handle 50 million passengers a year and employ up to 50,000 people but this would aggravate the present labour shortage of skilled workers. It would add to the influx of tourists to Cambridge, which is already at a very high level and cause a serious noise nuisance that would make life unpleasant for people in the Duxford area. But on the brighter side opportunities for business and holiday flying for residents should be greatly improved.

1980 02 15

Ciba-Geigy is planning a new railway link to their site at Duxford which would mean 13,000 fewer lorries passing through local villages. At present the plastics factory is served by two sidings, one in Great Chesterford and the other at Whittlesford. Loading and unloading is carried out by a fleet of lorries including a tanker for highly inflammable methanol. Their journeys lead through narrow winding streets. But if they obtain a rail freight facilities grant it would provide a spur line into the site; however they need permission for a railway crossing on the Hinxton road. Nearly everybody likes the idea. 80 02 15

1980 11 20

The Duxford Flyer is equally at home on road or rail. With the rail wheels down she can shunt up to 700 tons of railway wagons at the CIBA-Geigy plastics factory. Using her road wheels she can potter round at a stately six miles an hour. The four-tone Unilokomotive is part of a scheme to end their dependence on two sidings at Great Chesterford and Whittlesford. The new railway leads directly into the works from the main Cambridge-London railway line and relieves Duxford and Ickleton of lorry traffic. 80 11 20

1981 04 01

Gypsies want to build two permanent caravan sites themselves because they believe the county council is acting too slowly. Members of the Romany Guild, the organisation that represents traditional travelling folk, have submitted plans for sites at Grassy Corner, Chesterton Fen Road at Milton and Royston Road Duxford. This follows Government recommendations that gypsies should try and build their own sites to overcome delays facing local authority plans. But the council says both sites have already been the subject of enforcement action. 81 04 01b

1981 08 07

The disused barracks at Duxford airfield could become a whole new village if the Ministry of Defence gets the go-ahead for expansion plans. The site, which already has 110 houses, would be expanded with more housing, a hotel, community centre and shopping. Such development would take the pressure off Milton which has been designated for the bulk of new housing under the Structure Plan. 81 08 07a

1982 04 30

Developments at Duxford Mill could have important repercussions for households in the future. For the entire heating comes from a device in the millrace which sucks heat out of the cool water of the stream and the speed of the water passing through a turbine provides the energy to drive the pumps and machinery. Twentieth-century science has returned to the basic principles of the 18<sup>th</sup> century but added its own brand of technology 82 04 30b

1983 08 05

Harding and Sons of Duxford, a family firm of builders, has shut down after more than 140 years. Brothers Gilbert, Leslie and Victor Harding are now in their 70s and 80s. It was sad to close the business which was started by their great-grandfather and employs 11 people, many of whom have worked for more than 30 years, but it was better to stop now in a solvent state, and hold their heads up high. 83 08 05 p11

1984 02 09

A six-year old Whittlesford schoolboy settled at the controls of a Volvo loader, then at the count of three pulled a lever which demolished a 40 foot chimney at Duxford. It had been used for animal waste businesses for 100 years and had long upset the villagers with its smells. Then smiling all the while and undeterred by Press photographers, Nicholas Haworth strained to lift a dusty brick in the air. It was probably the most exciting day in his life 84 02 09

1985 07 02

Children from Duxford Primary School have prepared a time capsule depicting life in 1985 which will be sealed in the chimney breast of the Duxford Lodge Hotel. They chose a painting by Susan Mills of Hinxton, an issue of the 'Chatterbox' community magazine, a clockwork wristwatch, pen, rubber and a one-pound note. A copy of 'The Times' and the CEN will also be included 85 07 02.

1985 10 04

Duxford Lodge Hotel opened to its first guests to reveal comfortable three-star accommodation and a restaurant which should prove popular with travellers taking a break from the M11. The former Highfield House Hotel has been transformed to create a country house atmosphere. During the war it was an RAF HQ and amongst officers billeted there was Group Captain Douglas Bader whose bedroom has now been incorporated into the new coffee lounge. Winter weekend breaks are offered at £60 per person for two nights including breakfast and dinner. 85 10 04 & a

1985 12 11

Duxford airfield new hangar – 85 12 11a

1986 01 03

Local firms such as Pye Unicam, Barnwell Engineering and Cambridge Instruments have shown that there are rich pickings in exporting to Eastern Bloc companies. Now two new companies have been established to assist exports. Anglia Instruments deals in Hungary, Bulgaria and Russia on behalf of several small firms including Techne at Duxford, while Anglo-Polish Exhibitions based at Histon provides a complete back-up service to firm who want to exhibit at major trade fairs in Poland. 86 01 3a

1986 03 24

Winds gusting up to 70mph brought chaos, killing one man, injuring others and causing thousands of pounds' damage. In Cambridge King's Parade was sealed off after material was dislodged from the chapel roof and an international computer exhibition at the University Centre was called off after windows and skylights were smashed. Duxford Museum closed after gales damaged a replica Spitfire and blew over a security man and a corrugated iron roof was ripped off the old Falcon Hotel ballroom in St Neots 86 03 24 86 06 09a & b # c.64

1986 06 11

Flame-haired Fergie, the Royal bride-to-be, dazzled and delighted onlookers when she arrived at Duxford with Prince Andrew. Wearing a stunning black and green outfit with a huge matching bow in her hair, Miss Sarah Ferguson stole the show as the Prince officially opened the new superhangar at the Imperial War Museum. It was the couple's second official engagement 86 06 11

1987 09 11

In 1931 Dr Norman de Bruyne, then aged 26, set up the Cambridge Aircraft Construction Company which produced the Snark, a rakish four-seat light, strong monoplane monoplane. The first flight was uneventful, apart from the engine stopping while it was flying over Cambridge, but it landed safely. It was held together with casein glue which had been used on all wooden aircraft. Then he set up a new company, Aero Research at Duxford where he developed Aerolite, formaldehyde glue which was used during WW2 for the construction of motor

1990 01 11

Duxford Museum expansion plans includes American Air Museum, Simulation Building and Land Welfare Hall– 90 01 11

1990 02 27

A community centre and swimming pool will be built for villagers in Duxford & Whittlesford if plans for a new multi-million pound shopping centre are approved near the M11 90 02 27a

1990 04 02

Victor bomber restored at Duxford Museum – 90 04 02a